



## **GLOSSARY OF IMMIGRATION TERMS**

To support knowledge building and understanding among Pictou County employers, and to promote clear communication about immigration, the Pictou County Partnership has compiled a list of common terms and their definitions.

**Kudos**  
- to you

**Authorized Representative:** Designated representative.

**Accredited Citizenship or Immigration Consultant:** There are two types of authorized representatives: Compensated and Uncompensated.

Individuals who receive some form of compensation for their services (either directly or indirectly): Compensated authorized representatives must be members in good standing with their accredited regulatory body.

Individuals who provide such services for free: Examples of these individuals include friends, family members, and volunteers or staff members at charitable or non-governmental organizations (NGOS).

**Accompanying Family Member:** A spouse or dependent child who intends to immigrate to Canada who are listed as dependents on the principle applicant's permanent resident application.

**Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP):** The AIP, implemented in partnership between Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and the four Atlantic provinces, aims to address demographic challenges, fill labour gaps and support economic growth in the Atlantic region.

**Asylum:** A safe place; the right to be recognized as a refugee and receive legal protection.

**Asylum-Seeker:** A person wanting to enter a safer foreign country to escape fear or persecution in their home country.

**Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB):** The Canadian standard used to describe, measure and recognize English language ability of adult immigrants and prospective immigrants who plan to live and work in Canada, or apply for citizenship. The Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC) is used to assess abilities in the French language.

**Canadian Citizen:** A person who is Canadian by birth, or who has applied for and received Canadian citizenship.

**Convention Refugee:** A person who has been recognized as being outside their country where they normally live and fears returning to that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

**Displaced:** Forced to move.

**Economic Immigrant:** A category of immigrants selected for their skills and ability to contribute to Canada's economy. Skilled workers, entrepreneurs, provincial nominees, and their spouses and dependents, make up the economic category.

**Family Class:** A class of immigrants to Canada made up of close relatives of a sponsor in Canada, including a spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner; dependent children; parents and grandparents; children under age 18 whom the sponsor intends to adopt in Canada; children of whom the sponsor is the guardian; brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, and grandchildren who are orphans under age 18; and any other relative, if the sponsor has no relative as described above, either abroad or in Canada.

**Federal Skilled Worker:** An immigrant selected as a permanent resident based on their education, work experience, knowledge of English and/or French, and other criteria that have been shown to help people succeed in the Canadian labour market. Spouses and children are included on the application.

**Foreign Credential Recognition:** The process of verifying that the education and job experience obtained in another country are equal to the standards established for Canadian professionals. Credential recognition for regulated occupations is mainly a provincial responsibility.

**Foreign National:** A person who is not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident. This includes a stateless person.

**Foreign Worker:** A temporary resident who is legally allowed to work in Canada on a temporary basis.

**Humanitarian:** To help general populations, people, and human rights.

**Immigrant:** Persons residing in Canada who were born outside of Canada, excluding temporary foreign workers, Canadian citizens born outside Canada and those with student or working visas.

**Inadmissibility:** When a person is not allowed to enter or stay in Canada. Reasons can include security concerns, criminal offences, human rights violations, health or financial reasons, and failure to comply with Canada's immigration laws.

**Internally Displaced Person:** Someone who leaves their home to escape danger or fear (like a refugee) but stays in their home country and does not cross an international border.

**Labour Mobility Project:** Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network's pilot project that matches skilled refugees through economic immigration, the Economic Mobility Pathways Project, to existing labour shortages in the area.

**Maintained Status:** If a visitor, student or foreign worker applies to extend their status, before that status expires, they can legally remain in Canada until a decision is made on the application. In this situation, the person has maintained status.

**Nova Scotia Nominee Program:** A program including a variety of streams to support skilled candidates to be nominated and able to make a permanent residency application.

**National Occupational Classification (NOC):** A list of all the occupations in the Canadian labor market. It describes each job according to skill type and TEER level. The NOC is used to collect and organize job statistics and to provide labour market information. It is also used as a basis for certain immigration requirements.

**Permanent Resident:** Someone who has been given permanent resident status by immigrating to Canada but is not a Canadian citizen. Permanent residents are citizens of other countries. A person in Canada temporarily, like a student or foreign worker, is not a permanent resident.

**Post-Graduation Work Permit:** A document issued by IRCC to eligible international students who have:

- graduated from an approved program of study at an eligible Canadian designated learning institution.
- applied to IRCC within 180 days of completing all degree or program requirements.

It allows permit holders to gain valuable Canadian work experience that helps them qualify for permanent residence in Canada.

**Principal Applicant:** The individual who must meet the immigration selection criteria. The spouse, common law, or conjugal partner should apply as a dependent.

**Provincial Nominee:** Someone who is nominated for immigration to Canada by a provincial or territorial government that has a Provincial Nominee Program. Nominees have the skills, education and work experience needed to make an immediate economic contribution to the province or territory that nominates them.

**Resettlement:** The process of a refugee permanently residing in a new country. Non-profit organizations help refugees with resettlement so they become familiar with their new home and find work.

**Refugee Status:** To be legally recognized as a refugee.

**Refugee Crisis:** A large number of refugees in need of finding a new home.

**Skill Level:** To be eligible for some economic and provincial streams, foreign workers must have work experience at specified skill levels. Skill levels for occupations come from the National Occupational Classification (NOC) system. They are classified by type of work and training required to be proficient.

**Sponsorship Group:** A sponsor group will directly or indirectly help the sponsored refugees settle into their life in Canada. This includes helping them to:

- find housing that meets their needs
- find English or French language training
- find a job and make friends
- learn about Canadian culture and values
- learn about the services in their community
- financially support the refugees for one year after the refugees arrive in Canada or until the refugees are self-supporting, whichever

**Temporary Resident:** A foreign national who is legally in Canada on a temporary basis as a visitor, student, or worker.

**Temporary Foreign Worker:** A foreign national engaged in work activity who is authorized, with the appropriate documentation, to enter and to remain in Canada for a limited period.

**Temporary Foreign Worker Program:** This program allows employers to hire foreign workers to fill short-term labour and skill shortages when no Canadians are available to do the job. A Labour Market Impact Assessment is needed to hire through this program. Foreign workers hired as part of this program are referred to as temporary foreign workers. They may get a work permit only after a Labour Market Impact Assessment has concluded that no Canadians are available to do the job.

**UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees):**

An international organization that helps support refugees.

**Work Permit:** A document issued by IRCC that authorizes a person to work legally in Canada. It sets out conditions for the worker such as: the type of work they can do, the employer they can work for, where they can work, and how long they can work.

- **Open work permit:** A type of work permit that does not specify an employer and allows a person to work for any employer in Canada (except for an employer who is listed as ineligible on the list of employers who have failed to comply with conditions, or who, on a regular basis, offers striptease, erotic dance, escort services or erotic massages.)
- **Employer-specific work permit:** A type of work permit that indicates the name of the employer a person can work for, how long a person can work, and the location where a person can work (if applicable). A person who holds this type of work permit can only work for the employer for the length of time specified, and if applicable, at the location shown on the permit.